

Mount Vernon Police Ledger

August 2008

What Laws changed on July 1st?

By Sergeant Bob Blakley

Every July 1st, the Commonwealth of Virginia enacts law changes that have been made by the General Assembly during the previous year. This year several changes were made that you should be aware of. Knowing the law is important and keeping up with all the changes can seem impossible at times. This article will focus on some of the changes that will most affect your daily lives. If you wish to view all the law changes, you can download the Selected Acts of the 2008 Virginia General Assembly at:

http://www.vsp.state.va.us/downloads/Selected_Acts_2008.pdf

Virginia enacted a new code section this year to protect you against forgery. While it is already illegal to forge and utter financial documents, § 18.2-172.2 has made it illegal to forge any document. The law states that *“Any person who maliciously affixes a facsimile or likeness of the signature of another person to any writing without the permission of that person and with the intent to create the false impression that the writing was signed by that person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.”* A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by a \$2,500 fine and/or 12 months in jail.

Any person who is under the age of 21 and operates a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (blood alcohol concentration of .02 to .07), but is not intoxicated (blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), is punished under § 18.2-266.1. This law, commonly referred to as “Baby DUI,” used to carry the same punishment as underage possession of alcohol. This year the General Assembly stepped up the punishment by making the offense a Class 1 misdemeanor. Those convicted of this offense will also lose their privilege to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth for a period of one year. The previous law only called for a six month suspension of driver’s privilege.

In the wake of the tragic events that occurred at Virginia Tech, several changes have been made to the mental health laws to help keep your community safe. One of the larger changes came in § 18.2-308.1:3. This law makes it illegal for any person to possess, purchase, or transport a firearm if that person has been involuntarily committed to a facility or ordered to mandatory outpatient treatment. It is also illegal to possess, purchase, or transport a firearm if a person has been the subject of a temporary detention order and subsequently agreed to voluntarily enter a facility or outpatient treatment program. Any violation of this offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

We see a lot of mopeds in the Mount Vernon District. § 46.2-914 states that no moped may be operated on a highway traveling at speeds over 35 mph, or by any person under

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the age of 16. This section states that any moped traveling faster than 35 mph shall be considered a motorcycle which would require the rider to be licensed accordingly. Additionally, it is still required that any person operating a moped carry identification. A violation of this section is a traffic infraction which should carry a fine of not more than \$50.

Virginia's "move over law" has changed this year to keep the Commonwealth's more than 21,000 police officers safe. Last year 83 police officers were killed in the United States due to accidents. The move over law, contained in § 46.2-921.1, requires vehicles to change lanes when approaching a stopped police vehicle with emergency lights activated. If the vehicle is on a two-lane road, or changing lanes is unsafe, the law requires vehicles approaching stopped police vehicles to reduce their speed and pass with due regard for safety. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor and additional penalties will be imposed if a crash occurs.

This article points out a few of the law changes that are now in effect. There are many other important changes that have been made to Virginia's sex offense laws, mental health laws, and criminal and traffic codes. Please take the time to look them up so you can help us combat crime.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

ROBBERY

Richmond Highway 7600

An employee of a GNC store, located at 7696 C Richmond Highway, was robbed Thursday morning just after opening the store. The 62-year-old woman was behind the counter at 10:10 a.m. on July 10 when a man entered and requested an item from a display case. The woman began to ring up the sale as the man grabbed the item and began to run out of the store. The victim gave chase and the suspect pushed her away. He fled on a red and black bicycle. The victim was not injured. The suspect was described as black, 17 to 25 years old. He was about 6 feet tall and skinny, with dread locks to his shoulders. He was wearing a black bandanna, black T-shirt, black baggy shorts and black and white sneakers.

BURGLARY

Poag Street 2800

A 57-year-old woman arrived home Thursday evening and interrupted a burglary in progress. The victim returned to her home, located in the 2800 block of Poag Street, at 4:50 p.m. on July 10. As she unlocked the front door she heard a noise inside. She looked through the window and saw a man running out the rear of her home. The victim immediately called police. An investigation determined the suspect entered the house by prying open a deadbolt lock on the rear door of the home. Numerous personal items in the house were in disarray but it appeared the suspect fled without taking anything. There was no description of the suspect.

ELUDE LAW ENFORCEMENT/GRAND LARCENY/DRIVING ON REVOKED

Richmond Highway/Beacon Hill Road

Police arrested a 28-year-old man after brief vehicle and foot pursuits on Friday evening. Around 11:06 p.m. on July 11, a patrol officer was alerted to a stolen vehicle traveling north on Richmond Highway near Lockheed Boulevard. The driver of the vehicle began to speed away and the officer began a pursuit. After a short distance the driver jumped from the vehicle and ran. An officer gave chase and located the suspect hiding in a dumpster. Marcus A. Copeland of 8203 Russell Road #201 in Alexandria was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He was charged with eluding a law enforcement officer, grand larceny and driving on a revoked driver's license.



MOUNT VERNON

LEE BUSINESS WATCH PARTNERSHIP

Put this program in force for your business !



The Fairfax County Police Department (Mount Vernon District), Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and members of the business community encourage local businesses to join our organization. The Business Watch Partnership is a collaboration between the Police Department, Chamber of Commerce and businesses, designed to enhance and improve the community. Some of the benefits you will gain by joining:

- **It is free!** There are no costs associated with joining the Business Watch Partnership.
- **Your business will receive e-mail alerts about criminal activity which could potentially affect your business.** The alerts will be tailored for your type of business or geographic location. The e-mails will be sent from the Fairfax County Police Department and localized communication from your local Block Captain. Your e-mail address will not be shared or given to anyone else.
- **Security surveys.** A Fairfax County Police Crime Prevention Officer will conduct a security survey at your business on request. This will include building security, physical security of your employees, work place violence advice, money handling/closing advice, robbery prevention, environmental crime prevention, etc.
- **Crime prevention seminars and training available to requesting businesses and groups.**
- **Create two-way communications between the Police Department and local businesses.**
- **We will provide stickers and signs which will alert people that this community and your business are members of this crime prevention program.**

Lessen the Opportunities for the Criminal:

Take Protective Measures*

- Secure all obvious (and not so obvious) points of entry to your business. Pretend you are the burglar: stand outside of your store and plan how you would get in. Then install secure locks on all doors and windows. Remember, a cheap lock can be jimmied with a knife or plastic card. Use sturdy deadbolts on doors with glass panels. Or have a locksmith inspect your entries and prescribe appropriate locks.
- Replace hollow-core doors with doors of solid construction.
- Avoid displaying valuable goods in store-front windows, and install tempered or laminated glass or impact resistant plastic windows.
- Brightly illuminate all entrances with vandal-proof fixtures.
- Leave empty cash drawers open after hours.
- Keep all shrubbery and debris away from windows and doors. Don't provide concealment or climbing platforms for the burglar.
- Lock up all ladders, ropes, and tools that could help a burglar gain entry.
- Install an alarm system, and check it regularly for failure.
- Make frequent bank deposits at varied times. Use an armored car if feasible.
- Teach employees to be aware of persons who are loitering or behaving in a suspicious manner. Such persons may be casing the premises for burglary, robbery, or shoplifting. Continue Page 4

- Do not work alone. If you must do so, leave a radio or television playing to suggest someone else is present.
- If you are robbed, observe the robbers, rather than fighting them off. Call law enforcement authorities immediately

afterward. Quickly jot down a description.

- Advertise a policy of prosecuting all shoplifters, and stick to it.
- Establish effective shoplifting deterrents within your business. First, heighten shoplifters' feelings of being watched. Second, minimize shoplifters' access to merchandise without inconveniencing customers more than is necessary.
- Deter bad check artists by establishing a check-cashing policy. Make sure employees know and adhere to store policy.
- Teach employees to exercise caution before accepting charge cards. Make sure cards are not expired, that they have not been altered, and that signatures bear a "reasonable resemblance."
- In pinpointing sources of losses, do not overlook the possibility of internal theft. Surveys indicate that employee theft accounts for the biggest chunk of dollar losses to crime by businesses.
- Maintain conscientious KEY CONTROL. Keys issued to employees should be stamped "DO NOT DUPLICATE." Install new locks and issue new numbered keys whenever employees leave their jobs.

* Suggestions from the National Sheriffs' Association

MISSION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- To improve the interaction and organization between businesses in our community.
- To reduce crime in the Mount Vernon – Lee community and make the latter inhospitable to criminal activity.
- To strengthen relations between area businesses and the police department.
- To utilize the partnership to promote a welcoming environment for new businesses moving into the area.

Mount Vernon- Lee Business Watch

A partnership between the business community of the Mount Vernon-Lee Districts, the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfax County Police Department

For more information about this program contact the Mount Vernon District Station Crime Prevention Unit.

Contact person MPO R. Clift at 703-360-8928

Email-Robert.Clift@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County Department of Family Services

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE IN OR AROUND VEHICLES. NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE

Many caring and responsible parents have left their children alone in a car, not realizing the risks involved. Parents should not leave a child alone in a car while they drop off clothing at the dry cleaner or escort another child to school. Results of leaving a child alone in a vehicle can be deadly.

- ☐ The temperature inside a car can reach deadly levels in minutes.
- ☐ Children can accidentally set the vehicle in motion.
- ☐ Drivers have difficulty seeing small children when they back up.
- ☐ The child might leave the vehicle to go look for you.
- ☐ Your child can be abducted.



SAFETY TIPS

- ☐ Children should never be left alone in a vehicle, not even while running a quick errand.
- ☐ Keep vehicles locked at all times, even when in the driveway or garage.
- ☐ Keys should never be left within reach of children.
- ☐ Teach your children to never play in or around a vehicle.
- ☐ Consider installing cross-view mirrors and/or a backup detection device on your vehicle.
- ☐ Always make sure all child passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- ☐ If a child is locked inside a car, get them out as quickly as possible. If they are very hot or seem sick, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- ☐ When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.

* Information provided by the KIDS IN CARS organization. www.kidsincars.org

For more information:

Child Protective Services Hotline

703-324-7400 (press option 2)

TTY 703-222-9452

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs

Fairfax County Emergency Alert Network - CEAN

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Public Affairs announce the creation of the Community Emergency Alert Network, or CEAN. The CEAN will be used by county officials to deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to county residents during a major crisis or emergency. Messages will be delivered to e-mail accounts, cell phones (text messaging costs may apply; check with your service provider), text pagers, satellite phones and wireless PDAs registered on the system.

Persons registered on the CEAN will be provided a personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken, and other important information.

Alerts may include personal safety, weather, major accidents involving utilities or roadways, or disaster notification such as a terrorist attack. In addition, residents may also register for any or all of the additional CEAN alert categories: county government closings /schedule changes, severe traffic disruptions, severe weather 24/7 and severe weather 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

To register for the Community Emergency Alert Network, visit the Fairfax County Web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. For additional information on the CEAN, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711.

Fairfax County Government offers the CEAN as a public service that will be used in conjunction with other public notification methods, such as cable Channel 16; the Fairfax

County Government Web site; the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line (703-817-7771, TTY 711) and area media, both radio and television.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
CEAN
ALERT NETWORK



**HELP REDUCE
INJURIES RESULTING
FROM CRASHES.
WEAR YOUR SAFETY
BELTS!**



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCK IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE IT

The Mount Vernon District Station is asking for your help in reducing criminal activity. There are many things that you can do to help reduce thefts, deter burglary and prevent or reduce auto theft, just to name a few!



- Lock vehicle doors at all times
- Park vehicles in well lit areas
- Do not leave valuables in vehicles
- Do not leave keys in vehicles
- Items that must be left in vehicles should be kept hidden from view
- Lock all of your doors at home
- Keep garage doors closed
- Participate in Neighborhood Watch
- Report any and all suspicious activity



Fairfax County Police Department
Non-Emergency
703-691-2131
Emergency
911





Safety Tips for Fairfax County Residents

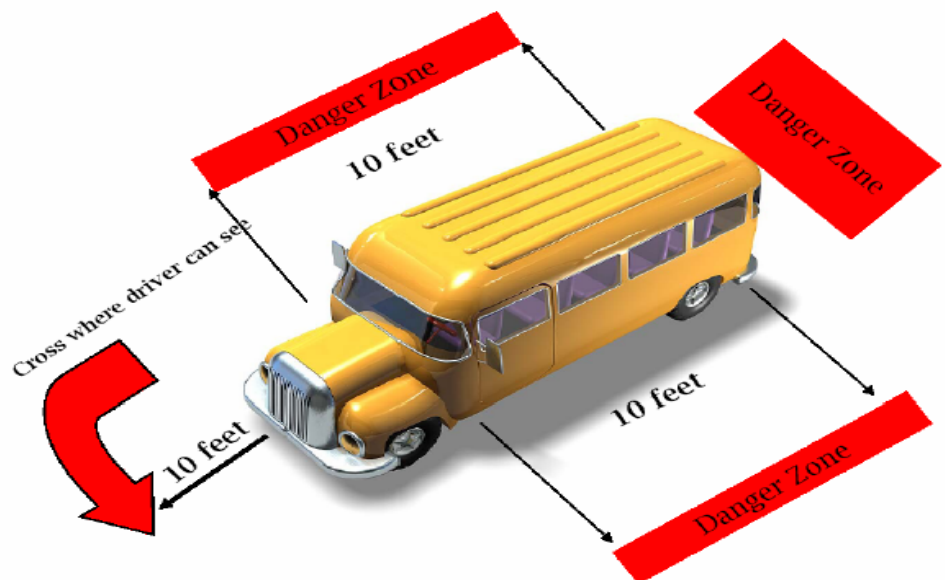
While summer school is in session drivers are reminded to keep children in mind when driving. School buses are on the roads. Once the lights and stop sign on a school bus are activated, other drivers on the road must stop their vehicles in both directions, unless they are separated from the bus by a physical median. Too often, drivers pass a bus while it is loading or unloading our children. School bus drivers routinely report drivers who pass them while stopped, and when a specific area becomes a trouble spot, unmarked police cars will follow the buses on their routes and pull over any driver who disobeys the law.



Other vehicle safety threats to children include aggressive drivers and those who speed, especially in school zones and residential areas. Drivers must abide by the 25 mph speed limit in school zones when the wink-o-matic signs are blinking. Fairfax County Police ask that you watch for direction from crossing guards and safety patrols. To report aggressive driving, visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm. Once a complaint about a driver is made by a citizen, about a driver, the aggressive driver receives a letter from the Fairfax County Police Department advising the owner of the vehicle that the vehicle was observed driving in an aggressive or reckless manner. Another safety issue in Fairfax County is turning right at a red light. Before making a right turn at a red light, you must stop, look for oncoming cars and pedestrians and then—only when conditions permit—you can make the turn. Too many drivers are treating red lights like yield signs...which they are not.

School Bus Danger Zones

If you have children riding a school bus, you should talk to them about the importance of danger zones around the school bus. Make sure your child is familiarized with the danger zones listed above. The danger zone is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of being hit. Children should stay ten feet away from the bus (or as far away as they can) and never go behind it. They should take five giant steps in front of the bus before crossing, so they can be seen by the driver.



Information from <http://www.nsc.org>

The Women's Group of Mt. Vernon

A place for friendship... The space for healing

Community Support and Education for:



- Women's Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Child Abuse

Informal roundtable discussions every 3rd Friday of each month

— *Childcare provided* —

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Mount Vernon Governmental Center (Police Station)
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22306

For more information, please contact:

Mattie Palmore (703) 863-2306 or

Kari Warren (703) 868-5531

WomensGroupOfMtVernon@gmail.com



**Mount Vernon Citizens
Advisory Committee**

**Fairfax County Police
Department**

Mount Vernon District Station

2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Non-Emergency—703-691-2131

EMERGENCY—911

***Making Our Community Safer
Through Crime Prevention***

Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

Mount Vernon District Station

Station Commander - Captain Michael Kline

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant David Russell

Crime Prevention Officer - MPO Robbie Clift

Crime Prevention Officer- PFC Daryl Davis

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

A Fairfax County, Va., publication

**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call
703-691-2131**

The Mount Vernon Citizen's Advisory Committee's monthly meeting will reconvene September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Station.

The topic for the September 9th meeting will be on Police Service Areas (PSA) and the speakers will be the supervisors in charge of the PSA.

